

No. XVI.—OCCURRENCE OF THE NEPAL KALIJ PHEASANT
(*G. LEUCOMELANUS*) AT MUSSOORIE

I am sending you the skin of *Gennæus leucomelanus*, the Nepal Kalij Pheasant, shot here in December last year. It may be of interest to record this, as, as far as I can find out, no one has either observed or recorded this bird from anywhere here. The books too, do not mention Mussoorie or its neighbourhood. There is only one place here where it is found to my knowledge, i.e., Lyndhurst Spur near the Botanical Gardens. I got the birds in this spur—one, the present skin and another young cock. Unfortunately I missed the hen that got up with the bunch.

I have made enquiries from a number of old shikari residents and no one appears to have noticed this bird about here. It does not seem to be generally distributed about these hills as I have never seen it, though may have overlooked it with *G. albocristatus* which is very common about the hills round here. Of course others may have overlooked it also or failed to notice it.

MUSOORIE, U. P.,
13th April, 1925.

F. FIELD.

[The skin sent by Mr. Field is undoubtedly an example of the Nepal Kalij Pheasant *G. leucomelanus*, there may be a possibility that some Raja maintains an aviary near Mussoorie, the specimen sent by Mr. Field certainly does not look like a captive Bird. [EDS.]

No. XVII.—BREEDING OF THE PAINTED SAND-GROUSE
(*PTEROCLES INDICUS*) IN THE PUNJAB SALT RANGE

On 16th March this year, in the Jhelum portion of the Salt Range, I shot a hen Painted Sand-Grouse from a nest containing two eggs. The locality was the stony hills lying south of the village of Dalwal, at an altitude of from 2,000 to 2,500 feet. The nest was on a rocky slope rising gradually from cultivated fields and seamed with small nullahs. The slope was covered everywhere with loose stones and dotted with small bushes, chiefly 'Bahekar' (*Adhatoda vasica*) and a very thick and prickly bush known locally as 'Kander.' There were also a few stunted 'Phulah' (*Acacia modesta*) and Lahura (*Tecoma undulata*) trees.

The nest was a slight depression scratched in the earth between some stones, and the eggs were lying on a small pad of dry grass much resembling chaff. The nearest bush was a 'Bahekar' about five yards distant. On my approach the bird sneaked away from the nest, and after going a few yards squatted flat between two stones, assimilating so with its surroundings as almost to defy detection. Having been watched thus for about a minute it rose and flew into a small nullah close by. I followed and secured it when it rose again, almost from my feet.

The two eggs were slightly incubated and dissection showed no trace of a third.

For the correct identification of the bird I am indebted to Mr. H. Whistler, to whom the skin was sent.

A clutch of three similar eggs, in an advanced stage of incubation, was brought to me last year, having been taken from a nest a few hundred yards from that described above. The parent bird was not secured, hence my visit to the neighbourhood on the present occasion.

Another clutch of 3 eggs, slightly incubated, of this bird have since been brought to me by a *shikari*, who found them on the 25th March, on stoney ground dotted with bushes at the southern base of the Salt Range, within the limits of the village of Kandwal.

JHELUM,
31st March, 1925.

H. W. WAITE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.,
Indian Police.